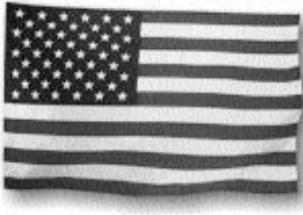


WEBFOCUS NEWSLETTER

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The WebFOCUS Connector for Excel

by Chima Ngene

Imagine an application environment that combined Microsoft Excel's user interface and computational prowess with the high capacity for server side-processing and database access of Information Builder's WebFOCUS.

That's what you get with the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel. What's more is that this WebFOCUS solution not only leverages the strengths of Microsoft Excel, but quite seamlessly integrates and delivers a closed-loop Business Intelligence solution that operates against a database.

Excel spreadsheets reading and writing to a centralized database offer many advantages to more than just the users. For example, after Excel does the number crunching there is no need for manual and redundant data entry to store the resulting data in the corporate database. This integration is made possible in part through the Connector's facility that maps the database tables and columns into a customized Excel spreadsheet. On the Excel spreadsheet those rows and columns may not have the same structure or design of the database.

In this article we are going to review the Excel Connector IBI-WORK-AREA, which is where this critical data mapping data is defined.

The Excel Connector solution is composed of three main components:

- WebFOCUS Maintain
- WebFOCUS Reporting
- Microsoft Excel

To begin, the user must first open the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel. This file is an Excel document that can be opened from the local computer file system, shared network drive, or even from an e-mail message as an attachment.

(continued on page 9)

New MR Developer for Windows

by Jim Thorstad

In WebFOCUS Version 5 Release 2.3, we are responding to customer feedback with a new offering tailored to the needs of Managed Reporting developers. That offering is WebFOCUS Managed Reporting Developer for Windows.

The name is a mouthful, but we expect the MR Developer to be received well by customers currently using the full Developer Studio product to create and manage domain content. This is because the full product has built-in features many customers don't need, and they include MR Administration, Maintain, and Project Deployment.

MR Developer was actually introduced to the Information Builders Fee Schedule in April 2003, although that was merely a pricing action and still resulted in a shipment of the full Developer Studio product (with an implied agreement to only use it for MR development). Now in 5.2.3, a new license key is sent to customers to install Developer Studio with the appropriate new behavior.

During installation, you will notice that you are not presented with options to install a WebFOCUS Reporting Server. You also do not need to have a local web server on your workstation. This is because MR development is typically done on a remote WebFOCUS environment shared by all the developers. You can do local MR development (for a standalone demo at a trade show or a meeting) but you will need to use the WebFOCUS Client and Server CD-ROMs and install those products separately.

Once you open MR Developer, the first thing you will notice is that the Projects on localhost node no longer appears displayed in the Explorer tree. As I mentioned before, MR development is done exclusively from the WebFOCUS Environments tree in Explorer.

(continued on page 11, column 2)

From Where I Sit...

A Spring Well Sprung

Larry Eiss



A lot of new things have happened since the last issue. A scant two weeks after I penned the last column my first grandchild was born. The young fellow weighed in at eight pounds, seven ounces. As some of you can attest, it is an amazing thing when your kids have kids.

Spring sprung well too. In fact, the more I think about it, the more apropos the words of that statement seem as a description of what happened. It seems like it has rained every day since March 1 around here. Streams are full, springs have sprung up where I have never seen them before, and my well is having no trouble keeping up with demand — most definitely a spring well sprung.

During the few dry times we've had, my wife and I have cut grass. From our perch on lawn tractors we have seen many of the new things this spring has brought:

- A pair of Canada Geese nested near the pond and hatched out five goslings. We watched them on one of their first forays into the world.
- The red fox family added five pups this year as well, one for each gosling as it appears. So much for forays into the world.
- The deer added fawns, and two of them romp and play on our lawn under the watchful care of their mother.
- Young groundhogs too have ventured out.
- An olive-sided flycatcher nested above the light near my front door. The egg from which her baby hatched is no larger than your little fingernail.
- The muskrats are hard at work undermining my lawn to create homes for themselves that become sink-holes for me.

- Just last night I returned home to the news that a large snapping turtle was laying eggs behind my shop. She was still there hard at work when I left this morning. She'll lay between 60 and 110 eggs and, depending on the weather, we'll see the hatchlings later this year or next spring.

Here at Information Builders, there are plenty of new things popping up as well. When WebFOCUS Developer Studio Release 5 was made available, it contained nearly 150 new features. That's a lot to assimilate.

When reading the product documentation, some people come away with the impression that a web server must be installed on the PC where Developer Studio is running. This is not the case. It's true that a web server is required if application development must be done without the benefit of a connection to the WebFOCUS environment on your network, but Developer Studio can be installed another way as well — I call it "Thin DevStudio."

Thin DevStudio places only the Developer Studio GUI on the local PC. The web server, Web Application Server, and WebFOCUS Reporting Server reside somewhere else. This provides distinct benefits. For example, a team of developers can work on a Project on a remote computer and use version control software to manage the source code and other application components.

Another new thing is the Managed Reporting Developer Edition of Developer Studio. This edition provides functionality like the browser-based Domain Administrator has. It's great for developing Managed Reporting applications because it removes the Projects from view and lets developers work exclusively in the User Administration Services repository.

More changes are on the horizon, and I'll discuss some of them in coming columns. Rain or shine, from where I sit, new is great. Now where did I leave that rocking-horse pattern? ♦

A Brief Introduction to the Business Intelligence Dashboard

by Emma Schwarz

The WebFOCUS Business Intelligence Dashboard, otherwise known as the Dashboard, is a thin-client front end that gives you the ability to control and organize how reports are delivered to the desktop.

Dashboard access is through Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser. The Dashboard also supports the Netscape 7 browser, but on a limited basis. Dashboard users are Managed Reporting users and have the same properties and privileges in both tools. The Dashboard puts a new face on reports and data available in the Managed Reporting Repository.

If you have MRE releases 4.3.6 or 5.2x installed in your machine, you also have the Dashboard. There are additional configuration steps for Release 4.3.6, but in more recent releases the Dashboard is available with every WebFOCUS Managed Reporting installation. If you have Managed Reporting Release 5.2x installed, use the URL http://localhost/ibi_apps/bid to get to the Dashboard index page. From the index page, administrators can access the View Builder and users can display Dashboard views.

The administrator builds Dashboard views for various groups of users. The view can be based on the Managed Reporting group through Group Views, or any group of users through Public Views. The administrator controls the look of the Dashboard for all views. Each view the administrator builds can have different looks and report access levels.

The Dashboard is administered using a point-and-click tool called View Builder. The administrator selects the logo, colors, composition and reports

to be shown in a Dashboard view. The Dashboard front end depends on you; it has no particular look because you have total control over what appears in each view.

You can use your own corporate logo and colors to customize the Dashboard and make it look like your own product. You may also create departmental sites using different colors, logos and reports. Since many different Dashboard views are available, only one WebFOCUS installation is needed to deliver multiple views at one site.

The Dashboard is administered using a point-and-click tool called View Builder. The administrator selects the logo, colors, composition and reports to be shown in a Dashboard view. The Dashboard front end depends on you; it has no particular look because you have total control over what appears in each view.

Authenticated users can build content pages that organize how reports are delivered to their own Dashboard view. In addition, authenticated users can put reports into a list of favorites that may appear on a banner link or be displayed right in the Dashboard main page.

This list can transcend domains, so if you regularly run reports from more than one domain, "favorites" lists can make getting to those reports a whole lot easier by making it possible for you to group the reports together. In addition, authenticated users have all the functionality currently available to them in Managed Reporting.

With the Dashboard, Information Builders has also introduced the concept of a "public" user. The public user does not enter a user ID and password in a login page, but instead goes directly into the Dashboard Public View for limited access to reports.

Public user access is carefully controlled through the Dashboard and Managed Reporting. The administrator decides what the public user can see and how he or she sees it. A kiosk application is a typical use for a public view.

Looking for more information? Check out the *Managed Reporting Administrator's Manual*, and its companion end user manual. Both are available at <http://www.informationbuilders.com> under Services and Support Documentation. ♦

Stack Notation and Field Descriptions

by Mark Derwin

Lately I've seen applications in which the data appearing on the screen, or being used in calculations, is not what the developer is expecting. This is because of the way that the field is populated on the screen or the notation used in the calculations. So here is a short refresher on how to reference fields in a stack and how to populate fields on a form.

Stack Fields

When data is loaded into a stack, columns and rows are created. The columns are the names of the fields (either from the database or computed) and the rows are instances of the data. So, the following command:

```
FOR ALL NEXT MOVIECODE INTO
MOVSTK
```

Creates a stack with nine columns (Moviecode, Title, Category, etc.) and 60 rows because that's how many rows are in the database. To reference any cell in the stack you use the notation: StackName(Row).Field. If you wanted to reference the fifth title in the stack you would use

```
MOVSTK(5).TITLE
```

Here, I explicitly used the row number. However, you can use any variable or expression that evaluates to an integer. You could use

```
MOVSTK(MOVSTK.FOCOUNT).TITLE
```

This is the last row.

There are two other notations of which you need to be aware:

STACK.FIELD and STACK().FIELD

The first, STACK.FIELD, is the same as using STACK(1).FIELD or the first row of the stack. If you want to operate on the current or selected

stack row, then you should not use this notation. If your stack never has more than one row, or you are only interested in the data in the first row, then this is fine. Otherwise you should not use this.

The second, STACK().FIELD, is the same as STACK(Stack.FocIndex).FIELD, or the currently displayed or selected field. If a user makes a selection from a list box, combo box, or radio group, and that object is populated from a stack, then STACK().FIELD contains the selected value. If you are scrolling through a stack and displaying one record at a time, the currently displayed record is STACK().FIELD. If you wanted to display the selected record in a new stack you could use this:

```
Copy From Stack() Into
Stack2
```

Field Descriptions

Fields displayed on a screen can come from three places: a stack, the database or a computed variable. Most of the time, you will want the data to come from a stack. This makes it easier to manipulate.

When you place the object on the form, the field name is prefaced by either the stack name or the database name. If when running your application you see the last record in the stack, instead of the selected one, it means that you dragged the database segment onto the form instead of the stack. You will have to remove those fields, then drag the stack onto the form and redisplay the fields.

I am not going to go into computed fields on forms because these don't come from the database and can only have one value at a time.

So, be careful when displaying and manipulating your data

and stacks. Make sure you're seeing what you expect to see and using the correct data. ♦

Lately I've seen applications in which the data appearing on the screen, or being used in calculations, is not what the developer is expecting. This is because of the way that the field is populated on the screen or the notation used in the calculations. So here is a short refresher on how to reference fields in a stack and how to populate fields on a form.

Conditionally Styling Reports in the Report Painter

by Richard Kwiatkowski

FOCUS offers developers a powerful and flexible language to create and format tabular reports. While these reports offer all the information an organization requires, they may be lacking aesthetically.

To add visual cues to a report, and perhaps improve its readability, developers need to add FOCUS StyleSheet code, a separate language. Coding StyleSheets can be a tedious process. The Report Painter, however, offers an improved graphical environment to assist developers in adding conventional and conditional styling to a report.

Conditional styling does not need much of a definition. The name says it all: Report output displays a value or component differently from the rest of the report. For example, if sales are below a critical level for a region, the sales values appear in red.

Versions of Report Painter prior to Release 5.2 let a developer apply conditional styling to a report but offered a small subset of styling options — font, background color and grid. The current Report Painter offers many more conditional styling options and also supports conditional drill-downs.

To apply conditional styling to a column, a developer uses the Field Properties dialog box, which he or she may access by right-clicking a column and selecting Options. The Field Properties dialog box is a redesigned interface that organizes all of the styling options into a common dialog box. The dialog box's Style tab contains the Conditional Styling controls.

The combination of the conditional styling controls with the styling options allows developers a fuller range of styling options for a true condition.

The basic steps for applying conditional styling are as follows:

① Create the condition.

Example: SALES GT 15000
REGION EQ 'Northwest'

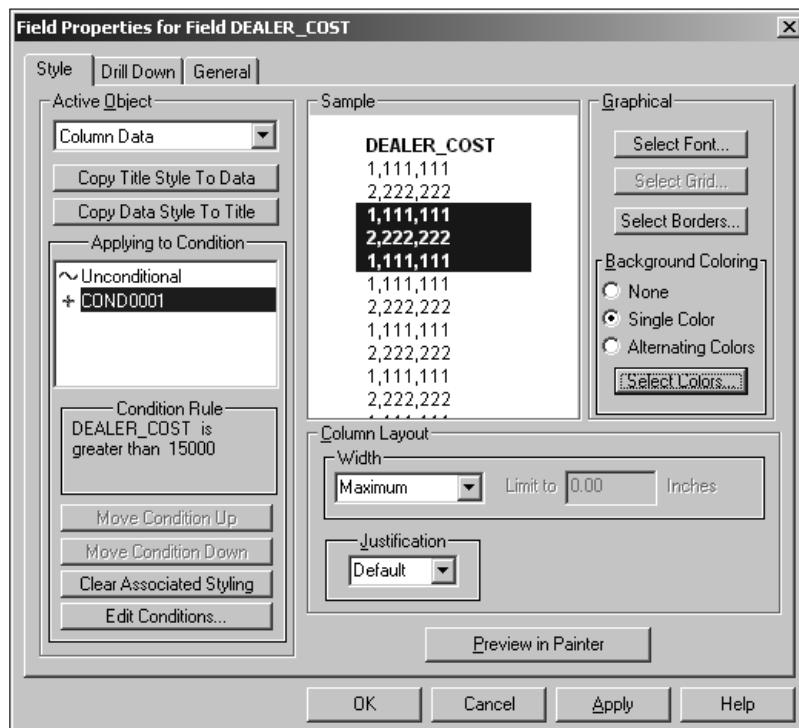
② Apply the condition to a report element.

Example: Column Data
Column Total

③ Apply styling options to the report element that the output displays when the condition is met.

Example: Font Color equals Red
Column Justification equals Center

Once a condition is defined for a report element, the Field Properties dialog box looks like what you see in **Screen 1**.



Screen 1

Notice the name of the condition appears below the Unconditional label. You use these labels to apply styling to the report element, in this case the data component of the DEALER_COST column. If the Unconditional label is selected, the Report Painter applies the styling to the report element, and sample output reflects this change. If a conditional label is selected, the Report Painter does not automatically apply the styling to the report element, but rather this change is reflected only in the actual report output.

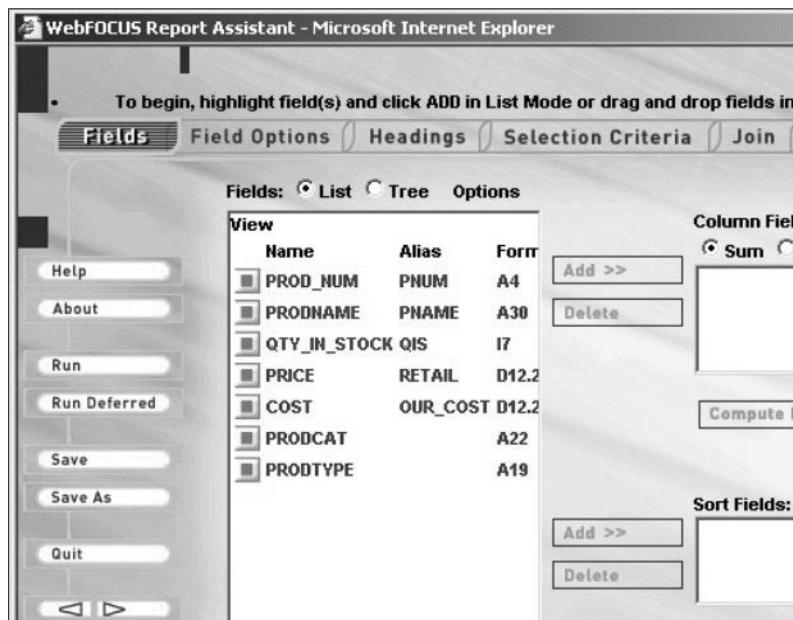
Screen 1 shows that a developer has applied a condition to the **Column Data** component of a column and has assigned styling to the condition. The plus (+) sign to the left of CONDO001 indicates that styling is associated with this condition. The Sample window shows how the actual data values will appear if the condition is met. In this example, when a DEALER_COST cost is greater than \$15,000 the font for the value becomes white and the background becomes black.

(continued on page 8, column 2)

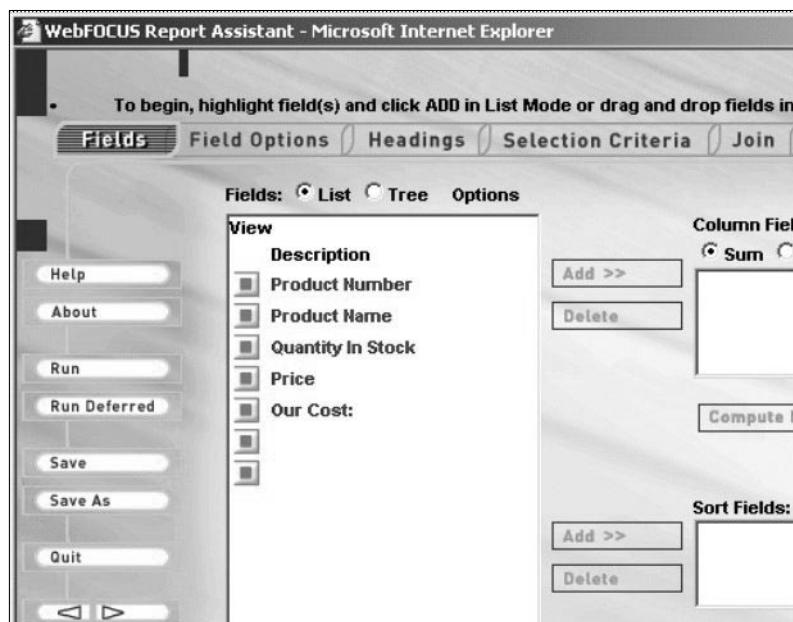
HTML Tools Customization Tips

by Laura Drezek

With the HTML Report and Graph Assistant tools acting as the default ad hoc tools in WebFOCUS and Developer Studio's Reporting Objects Component, we get many requests from customers for customization of the product.



Screen 1



Screen 2

One of the most common customization requests is for the ability to customize the field list display. In this article, I will share a technique on how to accomplish this.

Very often the names for fields are not intuitive or descriptive enough for the ad hoc user, so the request is to have the DESCRIPTION be the first column in the field list. This way the first thing users see when they look at the list is the description.

Here's how to make this change.

The field list is built using the JavaScript file, fldlst2.js, located in the /ibi_html/javaassist/ibi/html/assist directory. The JavaScript file unchanged contains the following variables and values:

```
var bShowName = true;
var bShowAlias = true;
var bShowTitle = false;
var bShowRemarks = false;
var bShowFormat = true;
var bShowDescription = false;
var bShowSegment = true;
var bShowFilename = false;
```

Looking at the above code you will see that the default for the fields list is Name, Alias, Format and Segment. If you look at the **Screen 1**, you will see the default field list for the CENTINV data source.

To make the Description the first column, we need to change the fldlst2.js file to read as follows:

```
var bShowName = false;
var bShowAlias = false;
var bShowTitle = false;
var bShowRemarks = false;
var bShowFormat = false;
var bShowDescription = true;
var bShowSegment = false;
var bShowFilename = false;
```

With those changes, the fields list will appear as shown on **Screen 2**.

After you make DESCRIPTION the first column in your fields list, the change will be reflected on the Fields tab only, though you can get to the fields list from several places in the tool. You will notice that the change is reflected in the Managed Reporting Environment and the Business Intelligence Dashboard.

As you can see, this is an easy change that could make your life much easier when using the product. And there are many more customization tips that I will share with you in future issues of the *WebFOCUS Newsletter*. ♦

Using a Subroutine to Handle Unconsolidated Data

by Harry Lotrowski

The WebFOCUS Financial Reporting Platform has the ability to create reports from data sources regardless of whether the data has been consolidated.

Sometimes the data is held in a native accounting format (**Figure 1**). In this format, revenue figures are stored as negative numbers. On the financial report though, the detail numbers would always be shown as positive numbers, but would be aggregated in respect to the sign.

This will require a COMPUTE for the display field. In this situation, or where multiple lines have been combined as one, the value of the FOR field

(continued on page 13)

CHILD	PARENT	CAPTION	ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT
1000		Profit Before Tax			
2000	1000	Gross Margin			
2100	2000	Sales			
2200	2100	Revenue			
2200	2100	Retail Sales			
2210	2200	Retail - Television	2210	20030131	-120400.00
2220	2200	Retail - Stereo	2220	20030131	-82010.00
2230	2200	Retail - Video Player	2230	20030131	-19440.00
2300	2100	Mail Order Sales			
2310	2300	Mail Order - Television	2310	20030131	-163160.00
2320	2300	Mail Order - Stereo	2320	20030131	-56850.00
2500	2000	Cost Of Goods Sold			
2600	2500	Variable Material Costs			
2610	2600	Television COGS	2610	20030131	215330.00
2620	2600	Stereo COGS	2620	20030131	80200.00
2700	2500	Direct Labor	2700	20030131	45300.00
2800	2500	Fixed Costs	2800	20030131	25310.00
5000	1000	Total R+D Costs			
5100	5000	Salaries	5100	20030131	11000.00
5200	5000	Misc. Equipment	5200	20030131	944.00

Figure 1

Focal Point: A Growth Community

by Monica McDonald

The Information Builders Product Marketing division is posting new content for developers on Focal Point. Coming soon and not to be missed are the WebFOCUS Developer Studio mini-tutorials.

These mini-tutorials will be short lessons designed to help users quickly start running the Developer Studio product. The first mini-tutorial to be posted is "Creating a New Project." Others to follow include:

- Setting up an ODBC Data Source
- Setting up a WebFOCUS Data Adapter
- Creating Metadata
- Adding Virtual Fields to Metadata
- Creating a Data View
- Creating Your First Developer Studio Report

In addition to these mini-tutorials, there is a lot more activity at Focal Point. The section called Information Builders' Forum is generating a lot of interest and excitement among our development community, and it continues to grow everyday. The forum had 266 registered users as of this writing. These users hail from more than 50 Information Builders customer sites.

Users come from a variety of industries, including telecommunications, the public sector, insurance and financial services. About 6 percent of registered users log in from outside the United States. Users visit the Information Builders' Forum to share FOCUS and WebFOCUS tips and techniques on the message boards. Check out these postings at <http://forum.informationbuilders.com>.

While you're there, be sure to take a look at the recent changes we made to the Information Builders' Forum based on feedback from our visitors. Most notably, we have added a category for Maintain users and a section for vendor postings where Information Builders Product Managers will be making announcements and asking for product feedback. There will also be outreach programs posted under "Vendor Postings."

In the near future, Information Builders will create a category for users of iWay products. Be sure to check back with us regularly and don't forget to give us your feedback. What would you like to see on Focal Point or the Information Builders' Forum? Let us know by posting under "Web Site Feedback." ◆

(Styling Reports continued from page 5)

An enhancement to the 5.2 version of the Report Painter is the ability to apply conditional drill-downs to a report. A Conditional drill-down behaves much the same way that conditional styling works. When a report element meets a condition, that element becomes hyperlinked and the drill-down becomes active.

A developer applies a conditional drill-down from the Drill Down tab on the Field Properties dialog box. The steps to apply a conditional drill-down are the same basic steps for applying conditional styling to a report element, except that instead of defining styling, you define a drill-down scenario.

Let's take a look under the covers at the code that Report Painter generates for conditional styling.

When a developer creates a condition the Report Painter writes a Macro StyleSheet block that names the condition (COND0001) and specifies the condition that must be met (N2 GT 15000).

```
DEFMACRO=COND0001,
MACTYPE=RULE,
WHEN=N2 GT 15000,
```

At this point, the condition has not been applied to a report element for a reason. The Report Painter creates the Macro so that this condition can be applied to other report elements. If the Painter applied the condition directly to the report elements StyleSheet block, that condition would not be available for other report elements.

Once the condition is created and the Painter writes the Macro block, the developer can apply styling, including drill-downs, to a report element. The Report Painter writes the following StyleSheet code:

```
TYPE=DATA,
COLUMN=N2,
FONT='ARIAL',
COLOR='WHITE',
BACKCOLOR=RGB(64 0 64),
STYLE=BOLD,
MACRO=COND0001,
```

This StyleSheet code shows the report element (the data component of column N2), the styling options (Arial, white, bold font, with a background color) and the condition that must be met (COND0001). ◆

(Connector for Excel continued from page 1)

Because the Excel Connector has been pre-configured, it is immediately ready for use once opened. By clicking the Load button, the Excel Connector populates the spreadsheet with data that comes directly from a database.

The user can then apply edits to the spreadsheet. To commit any edits to the database the user clicks the Save button.

	A	B	C
1	www	http://localhost	
2	WebFOCUS CLIENT	/cgi-bin/ibi_cgi/ibiweb.exe	
3	node	EDASERVE	
4	Application	la_county	
5	FOC_WRITE	la_county_w	
6	FOC_READ	la_county_r	&D_CODE=AO&O_CODE=10100
7	Reserved		
8	Max_Row_Count	15	
9	Authenticate	Yes	
10	Starting_foc_error_row	27	
11			

Figure 1

Behind the Scenes: Loading and Saving

When the user clicks the Load button, the Excel Connector invokes a WebFOCUS report. This report simply issues TABLE FILE syntax to print the database key columns and desired data fields. The output of the report is stored on a dedicated worksheet named IBI-WORK-AREA. It then uses its data mapping information to populate the customer spreadsheet with data from the report. And when the user clicks the Save button, it again uses the data mapping information to copy the custom spreadsheet values back into the IBI-WORK-AREA, where it is then sent to a WebFOCUS Maintain procedure for saving.

Commonly asked questions regarding the Excel connector include the following:

Q: What types of skills are required to use the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel?

A: General knowledge of the Excel user interface is all that is required to use the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel.

Q: Do I need to learn Excel VB programming language in order to configure and set up?

A: No. The Connector for Excel has built-in macros to support a wide array of spreadsheet configurations. To set up the Excel Connector to use another database, general knowledge of WebFOCUS Table and Maintain is all that's required.

The IBI-WORK-AREA

The IBI-WORK-AREA is a dedicated worksheet within the Excel connector used by the WebFOCUS Connector to temporarily store data and describe its operational environment. The information stored in the IBI-WORK-AREA includes the following:

- System Information
- Mapping Information
- Storage space for temporary data

System Information

The System information described by WebFOCUS Connector for Excel identifies the WebFOCUS Environment and high-level operational data. As depicted in **Figure 1**, the label appears in column A and the values to be used are stored in column B. All field labels includes a help description explaining their purpose. Placing the mouse pointer above the red triangle will reveal this help text.

The **www** field, identifies the web server host machine and the protocol to use when connecting to it (*either HTTP or HTTPS*).

The **WebFOCUS CLIENT** field identifies the path to the WebFOCUS Client, which is either the CGI or ISAPI implementation.

Node identifies the WebFOCUS Server. This is the **node** name defined in the WebFOCUS Client's **ODIN.CFG** file.

(Connector for Excel continued)

Name	DEPT_CODE	ORGN_CODE	CONTACT_PERSON	PHONE_NMBR	EMAIL_ADD	ORGN_CODE	CONTRACT_NMBR
Source	D27	E27	F27	G27	H27	I27	J27
Destination	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	A1	C21
Delta_X	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Delta_Y	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Distinct	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Reserved							
Save	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Destination.X							
Destination.Y							
Present	DEPT_CODE	ORGN_CODE	CONTACT_PERSON	PHONE_NMBR	EMAIL_ADD	ORGN_CODE	CONTRACT_NMBR
Present	AO	10100	Shari Nishi	(213) 974-138	snishi@ca0.co.la.ca	10100	02-020

Figure 2

The Application field provides a qualifying application name and path for the WebFOCUS Table and Maintain procedures. When the Excel Connector needs to invoke a WebFOCUS procedure it will use this application path at run-time. If supplying more than one application name, separate them with a space character (not comma or dash).

FOC_WRITE identifies the name of the WebFOCUS Maintain procedure. The Maintain procedure is called when performing save operations. The cell adjacent to it, C5, can be used to pass additional parameters to the Maintain procedure.

The FOC_READ field identifies the name of the WebFOCUS Report. The reporting procedure (Table) is called when performing load operations. The cell adjacent to it, C6, can be used to pass additional parameters to the reporting procedure.

The Reserved field can be used for two distinct purposes. When its value is set to "version," the product version number of the Excel Connector appears when the user clicks the Load button. When the Reserved field has a value of "debug" both load and save operations provide more output to the user, such as the parameter and values that are passed to the WebFOCUS Client.

Max_Row_Count controls the size of the transaction block sent to WebFOCUS Maintain during save operations. Its number represents the number of database rows that are passed to the Maintain procedure at a time.

The Authenticate field controls the prompting for the user name and password during load and save operations. When it has a value of "Yes," the user will be prompted for a name and password.

Starting_foc_error_row tells the Excel Connector where it should look to identify WebFOCUS Error codes within the IBI-WORK-AREA worksheet.

Mapping Information

The Mapping information describes how information from the WebFOCUS report is stored in the custom spreadsheet (sheet1). The Excel Connector does not require mapping information for all columns in the WebFOCUS report. However, it requires an entry for each column in the report representing a database key field, and each database column representing data on the custom spreadsheet (sheet1).

The column mapping information defined in the IBI-WORK-AREA starts at Cell D14 for the first column, Cell E14 for the second column, Cell F14 for the third column and so on. Each mapped column has properties used by the WebFOCUS Connector, and these property values appear in their respective column on different rows. The column property names are in Cells C14 thru C23 (Name, Source, Destination, Delta_X, etc). See Figure 2.

The Name property represents the actual column name and should appear exactly as it does in the database/report.

The Source property identifies the first cell containing data for its column in the IBI-WORK-AREA temporary storage. The work-area temporary storage is used to hold output from the WebFOCUS report. It appears after the load operation.

Destination property identifies the first cell in the custom spreadsheet (sheet1) where the named column data is to be mapped to. It is important to note that an Excel named range can be used for this type of reference. If a named range is moved to another part of the spreadsheet, the WebFOCUS Excel Connector mapping information still applies, and does not require change.

To create a named range, navigate to the desired destination position on sheet1 and select the Insert->Name->Define menu item. Enter the desired name and click the OK button. The destination value in the IBI-WORK-AREA can then be entered exactly as follows (where Type_of_service is the named Range):

(Connector for Excel continued)

```
=CELL("address",Type_of_Service)
```

The Delta X property determines the horizontal direction of data for the named column on the customized spreadsheet. Its value represents the number of horizontal cell positions to travel from the Destination cell to store the data series from the report (rows in the WebFOCUS Report for said column).

Delta Y determines the vertical direction of data for the named column on the customized spreadsheet. Its value represents the number of vertical cell positions to travel from the Destination cell to store the data series (rows in the WebFOCUS Report for said column).

- As the Excel Connector identifies the Destination cell by applying the Delta.X and Delta.Y, that new position becomes the next Destination cell to apply the deltas to as it traverses thru the data series.
- When the Delta X and Delta Y properties have a value of zero, no data will be mapped to the customized spreadsheet for that column.

The Distinct property is used when repeated data in the named column should not continuously appear in the customized spreadsheet (much like when the BY keyword is used in a Table report). When its value is set to "Yes," only unique values for the column in the IBI-WORK-AREA will be mapped to the customized spreadsheet. For this feature to be most effective, the report should print the column with sorted values.

The Reserved property currently has no production uses.

Save determines if data for the named column is sent to the Maintain procedure to be committed to the database during the save operation. All database key columns must be sent for the save operation to be successful. A property value of "Yes" indicates that the named column's data is sent during save operations.

Destination.X and Destination.Y are without a doubt the most difficult to comprehend. Here goes... These two properties can be left blank, but their applications do offer some practical value. How practical? When to use? By using these properties the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel attempts to track the data that has been mapped to the customized worksheet (sheet1). It does this by designating a column that is mapped to sheet1 as being an internal key column. When the end user deletes or moves it from sheet1, the Excel Connector knows it.

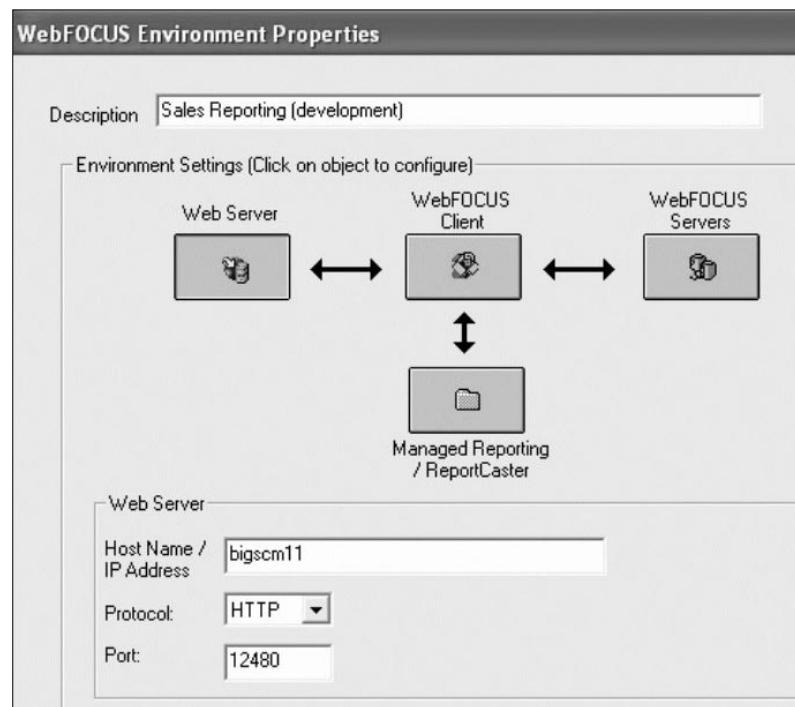
To designate a column as the internal key column for data mapping, enter a value of "Set" into its Destination.X property when its customized data travels horizontally. Use Destination.Y if its customized data series travels vertically on sheet1. Then enter the value of "Get" into all other mapped columns.

In a future article we will discuss more aspects of the WebFOCUS Connector for Excel and demonstrate how easily the available templates can be customized to work with any database. ♦

(MR Developer continued from page 1)

The project-based features of Developer Studio/Power Reporter are geared toward self-service and/or Maintain development and have been removed from MR Developer to simplify the developer's experience. Certain toolbar icons that don't apply have also been removed.

When you configure a WebFOCUS environment in Explorer, you will notice that the Project Development button no longer appears in the dialog (Screen 1). The Managed Reporting/ReportCaster button now appears directly underneath the WebFOCUS Client button.



Screen 1

(MR Developer continued)



The MR credentials you supply are now validated before the Data Servers node is opened in Explorer. If you are a Domain Administrator (this is the user type that equates to an MR content developer; in the 5.2.3 release Domain Administrator was renamed Developer throughout the product) and don't have the Data Server privilege, you will be unable to open the Data Servers node, and a message will appear with an explanation (**Screen 2**). It proved impractical to actually hide the Data Servers node in this case, but we think the message will suffice.

Domain Administrators with the Data Server privilege will be able to view and edit the Server and Application Path properties on a domain (**Screen 3**), report or reporting object. But if you don't have the Data Server privilege, you will only be able to view these properties.



Screen 3 You will also notice the Web Applications and User Management nodes are hidden in Explorer because they do not apply to this product. You might wonder why an MR Administrator using MR Developer for Windows shouldn't have access to the User Management feature. By design, all MR administrative features are disabled in this product. That means that you cannot create, delete, or rename Domains using MR Developer.

In addition, there is no access to User Administrator, Dashboard View Builder, PDA Sync Administrator, or the ReportCaster Console. An MR Administrator can use the product, but the behavior will be the same as that of an MR Domain Administrator who has the Data Server privilege.

As we were putting this new offering together, a common question was whether MR Developer could be used to create self-service applications. The answer is a qualified yes. You can certainly create server procedures and metadata via the Data Server node (provided you are either an MR Administrator or a Domain Administrator with the Data Server privilege).

But you can't access the Web Applications folder from Explorer, which you might want to do to create launch pages. And you cannot work in the "Project development" paradigm, which includes support for source code control and deployment scenarios. If you are interested in those things, you must use either the Power Reporter or the Developer Studio products.

MR Developer for Windows is priced slightly higher than MR Developer for Web Browsers because of its additional capability (Task Viewer, Report Painter, Resource Layout and Change Management, to name a few). Speak with your account team for help selecting the right products for your organization.

We hope to hear from you about this new offering. Send feedback through your account team or to me directly at jim_thorstad@ibi.com. ♦

(Unconsolidated Data continued from page 7)

may not be readily available within COMPUTE statements. When lines are combined, a COMPUTE would pick up the lowest number as opposed to the first account referenced.

To accommodate this situation, we have created a new user-written subroutine called FMLINFO to provide the ability to accurately determine the FOR value. The syntax of this routine is FIELD/XXX = FMLINFO('FORVALUE', 'XXX') where XXX is the format of the FOR field.

Consider the report in **Figure 3** (on the next page). If it is based upon the pre-consolidated data in **Figure 2**, no aggregation takes place, and the code can either be used to print or sum the data as shown here:

```
TABLE FILE EXAMP
SUM AMNTS
AS 'CURRENT,MONTH,ACTUALS'
FOR CHILD
1000 WITH CHILDREN ALL AS CAPTION
LABEL R1
```

CHILD	PARENT	CAPTION	ACCOUNT	DATE	AMOUNT
1000		Profit Before Tax	1000	20030131	55280.00
2000	1000	Gross Margin	2000	20030131	75720.00
2100	2000	Sales Revenue	2100	20030131	441860.00
2200	2100	Retail Sales	2200	20030131	221850.00
2210	2200	Retail - Television	2210	20030131	120400.00
2220	2200	Retail - Stereo	2220	20030131	82010.00
2230	2200	Retail - Video Player	2230	20030131	19440.00
2300	2100	Mail Order Sales	2300	20030131	220010.00
2310	2300	Mail Order - Television	2310	20030131	163160.00
2320	2300	Mail Order - Stereo	2320	20030131	56850.00
2500	2000	Cost Of Goods Sold	2500	20030131	366140.00
2600	2500	Variable Material Costs	2600	20030131	295530.00
2610	2600	Television COGS	2610	20030131	215330.00
2620	2600	Stereo COGS	2620	20030131	80200.00
2700	2500	Direct Labor	2700	20030131	45300.00
2800	2500	Fixed Costs	2800	20030131	25310.00
5000	1000	Total R+D Costs	5000	20030131	20440.00
5100	5000	Salaries	5100	20030131	11000.00

Figure 2

(Unconsolidated Data *continued*)

	CURRENT MONTH ACTUALS
Profit Before Tax	5,337,699.88
Gross Margin	37,604,385.94
Sales Revenue	363,072,936.30
Retail Sales	133,593,202.01
Mail Order Sales	133,388,889.10
Internet Sales	96,090,845.19
Cost Of Goods Sold	325,468,550.36
Variable Material Costs	323,841,947.50
Direct Labor	1,127,184.10
Fixed Costs	499,418.76
Total Operating Expenses	28,326,299.84
Selling Expenses	2,530,868.94
Advertising	1,026,676.23
Promotional Expenses	57,695.17
Joint Marketing	109,906.83
Bonuses/Commissions	1,336,590.71
General + Admin Expenses	25,406,666.32
Salaries-Corporate	9,435,280.79
Company Benefits	6,775,306.21
Depreciation Expenses	2,072,749.40
Gain/(Loss) Sale of Equipment	270,592.47
Leasehold Expenses	1,495,038.56
Interest Expenses	998,612.57
Utilities	4,359,086.32
Warranty	388,764.58
Total R+D Costs	3,940,386.22
Salaries	3,270,475.65
Misc. Equipment	669,910.57

Figure 3

However, to produce the same report on unconsolidated data similar to that of **Figure 1**, additional processing of the data is required. This is where the FMLINFO functionality comes into play.

It allows you to reverse the sign before it is actually written to the report page but after it has been aggregated. The code is as follows:

(Unconsolidated Data continued)

```

TABLE FILE EXAMP
SUM      AMNTS
NOPRINT
COMPUTE AMT/D12.2 = IF FMLINFO
('FORVALUE','A4') LT '2500'
THEN (AMNTS * ( - 1))
ELSE AMNTS;

AS 'CURRENT,MONTH,ACTUALS'
FOR CHILD
1000 WITH CHILDREN ALL ADD
AS CAPTION LABEL R1
ON TABLE SET FORMULTIPLE ON

```

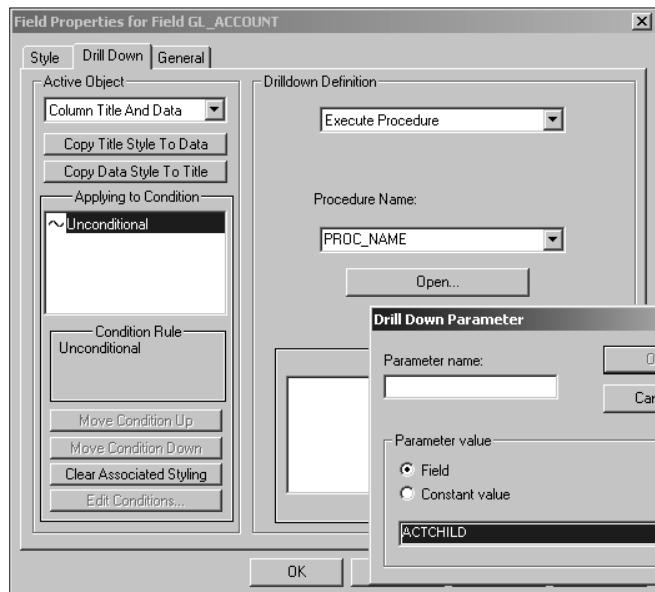
Please note that the *Use Multiple Values* and the *Consolidate* check boxes would be checked for unconsolidated data reporting in the matrix window (**Screen 1**). The `FMLINFO` routine is only effective within a compute. If you use it in a `DEFINE` it will yield unpredictable results.

Another area where the `FMLINFO` routine is used is in drill-down financial reports. Assume that you wanted to drill down on the actual `FOR` field to another report. While the `FOR` field is selected for the report, its caption is displayed instead.

Regardless of this, you should still choose the `FOR` field as the object of your drill-down (**Screen 2** on the following page). When the report is displayed, the caption field will have the underline indicating its availability for drill-down. The value you would want to pass, however, would have to be based on the value you retrieved via a field computed using the `FMLINFO` routine shown in the following code:

Screen 1

(Unconsolidated Data continued)



Screen 2

```
TABLE FILE EXAMP
SUM AMNTS      AS 'CURRENT,MONTH,ACTUALS'
COMPUTE ACTCHILD/A4 =
FMLINFO('FORVALUE','A4'); NOPRINT
FOR CHILD
1000 WITH CHILDREN ALL AS CAPTION LABEL R1
```

FMLINFO does not currently appear in the list of user-written sub-routines. Please keep this article in mind during your development efforts. ♦

The *WebFOCUS Newsletter* is intended to disseminate a wide variety of technical information to the entire WebFOCUS community. To submit an article, send it via e-mail to Pedro Pereira at pedro_pereira@ibi.com. If you would like to be on our mailing list, send an email to wfn_response@ibi.com.

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